AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 - Cancelled

21. (New) A utilization method within a communication network, the method comprising:

receiving a service request message from a service consumer;

generating a meter event request associated with the service request;

comparing the actual content of a cache memory with at least one parameter;

storing the meter event request in the cache memory or sending the meter event request and the content of the cache memory to a metering service in order to process the meter event requests based on the comparison;

wherein said at least one parameter is associated with the service request and a predefined convention, and said parameter defines how many meter event requests may be stored in the cache memory.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein comparing the actual content of a cache memory with at least one parameter comprises evaluating a status of a boolean parameter which indicates if the meter event request is allowed to be stored in the cache memory.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein comparing the actual content of a cache memory with at least one parameter comprises:

evaluating a value of an integer parameter associated with the boolean parameter; and

comparing said value of the integer parameter with the content of the cache memory.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising sending the meter event request to the metering service in order to process the meter event request and deleting the content of the cache memory if the actual number of the meter event requests in the cache memory equals or increases the value of the integer parameter.

25. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the meter event request is stored in the cache memory if the actual number of the meter event requests in the cache memory is less than said value of the integer parameter.

26. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the predefined convention is defined in a license contract which relates to the kinds and amount of services between a service provider and the service consumer.

27. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein a relevant information is separated from the service request message after receiving the service request message.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the relevant information of the service request message comprises at least one of request data, contract data, license data, the boolean parameter, the integer parameter and the identity of the service consumer.

29. (New) The method of claim 21 further comprising:

counting the services when the associated meter event request is sent to the

metering service; and

sending the actual counting results to at least one of a service provider and the

service consumer.

30. (New) A utilization system within a communication network, said system

comprising:

an input device for receiving a service request message from a service

consumer;

a generator for generating a meter event request associated with the service

request;

a cache memory for storing the meter event requests;

a cache controller for controlling the cache memory; and

an invocator for sending the meter event requests to a metering service in order

to process the meter event requests;

wherein said system comprises a cache enabler for evaluating if any meter event

request may be stored in the cache memory, and a monitor for evaluating how many

meter event requests may be stored in the cache memory depending on at least one

parameter associated with the request and a predefined convention.

31. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the cache enabler evaluates a status of a boolean parameter which indicates if the meter event request may be stored in the cache memory.

32. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the monitor evaluates a status of an integer parameter which indicates how many meter event requests may be stored in the cache memory.

33. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein said input device is coupled with a message context separator for separating the relevant information from the service request message.

34. (New) The system of claim 30, further comprising a counter for counting the requested services when associated meter event requests has been sent to the metering service.

35. (New) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer usable program code embodied therewith, the computer usable program code comprising:

computer usable program code configured to receive a service request message from a service consumer;

computer usable program code configured to generate a meter event request associated with the service request;

computer usable program code configured to compare the actual content of a cache memory with at least one parameter;

computer usable program code configured to store the meter event request in the cache memory or send the meter event request and the content of the cache memory to a metering service in order to process the meter event requests based on the comparison;

wherein said at least one parameter is associated with the service request and a predefined convention, and said parameter defines how many meter event requests may be stored in the cache memory.

36. (New) The computer program product of claim 35, wherein the computer usable program code configured to compare the actual content of a cache memory with at least one parameter comprises computer usable program code configured to evaluate a status of a boolean parameter which indicates if the meter event request is allowed to be stored in the cache memory.

37. (New) The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the computer usable program code configured to compare the actual content of a cache memory with at least one parameter comprises:

computer usable program code configured to evaluate a value of an integer parameter associated with the boolean parameter; and

computer usable program code configured to compare said value of the integer parameter with the content of the cache memory.

38. (New) The computer program product of claim 37, further comprising computer usable program code configured to send the meter event request to the metering service in order to process the meter event request and computer usable program code configured to delete the content of the cache memory if the actual number of the meter event requests in the cache memory equals or increases the value of the integer parameter.

39. (New) The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the meter event request is stored in the cache memory if the actual number of the meter event requests in the cache memory is less than said value of the integer parameter.

40. (New) The computer program product of claim 35, wherein the predefined convention is defined in a license contract which relates to the kinds and amount of services between a service provider and the service consumer.